

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A cooperative processing apparatus comprising:

a service execution requesting unit for requesting, on the basis of first cooperation instruction information that instructs cooperative execution, via a network, of respective processes of plural services of a cooperative process on document data, a service processing apparatus for executing a service; and

a cooperation instruction information generating unit for generating, if a service processing apparatus which is requested for executing a service by the service execution requesting unit has become incapable of executing the service, second cooperation instruction information that instructs cooperative execution of the service which the service processing apparatus has become incapable of executing and services following it.

2. The cooperative processing apparatus according to claim1, wherein the cooperation instruction information generating unit generates the second cooperation instruction information when the service processing apparatus has become incapable of executing the service whose turn in order of the plural services has come.

3. The cooperative processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the cooperation instruction information generating unit generates second cooperation instruction information by performing at least one of an operation of incorporating the same identification information as of the first cooperation instruction information in the second cooperation instruction information and an operation of deleting execution-completed services and writing, in the second cooperation instruction information, a statement to the effect that remaining services should be executed in a cooperative manner via the network.

4. The cooperative processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the cooperation instruction information generating unit generates second cooperation instruction information including storage destination information of document data that has been processed before the service processing apparatus became incapable of executing the service.

5. The cooperative processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the cooperation instruction information generating unit generates second cooperation instruction information including log information indicating execution-completed services or second cooperation instruction information to which the first cooperation instruction information is attached.

6. The cooperative processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when instructed to effect re-execution, the service execution requesting unit requests, on the basis of the second cooperation instruction information, a service processing apparatus for executing a service whose turn has come to execute the service.

7. The cooperative processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a cooperative process suspending unit for suspending the cooperative process if a service processing apparatus has become incapable of executing the service whose turn in order of the plural services has come;

a search unit for searching for a substitute service processing apparatus when a service processing apparatus has become incapable of executing the service whose turn in order of the plural services has come ; and

a control unit for switching-controlling the cooperation instruction information generating unit, the cooperative process suspending unit, and the search unit on the basis of the first cooperation instruction information.

8. A cooperative processing method comprising:

requesting, on the basis of first cooperation instruction information that instructs cooperative execution, via a network, of respective processes of plural services of a cooperative process on document data, a service processing apparatus for executing a service; and

generating, if a service processing apparatus which is requested for executing a service by the service execution requesting unit has become incapable of executing the service, second cooperation instruction information that instructs cooperative execution of the service that the service processing apparatus has become incapable of executing and services following it.

9. The cooperative processing method according to claim 8, wherein the second cooperation instruction information is generated when the service processing apparatus has become incapable of executing the service whose turn in order of the plural services has come.

10. The cooperative processing method according to claim 8, wherein second cooperation instruction information is generated by performing at least one of an operation of incorporating the same identification information as of the first cooperation instruction information in the second cooperation instruction information and an operation of deleting execution-completed services and writing, in the second cooperation

instruction information, a statement to the effect that remaining services should be executed in a cooperative manner via the network.

11. The cooperative processing method according to claim 8, wherein second cooperation instruction information including storage destination information of document data is generated, the document data having been processed before the service processing apparatus became incapable of executing the service.

12. The cooperative processing method according to claim 8, wherein second cooperation instruction information including log information indicating execution-completed services or second cooperation instruction information to which the first cooperation instruction information is attached is generated.

13. The cooperative processing method according to claim 8, wherein when instructed to effect re-execution, on the basis of the second cooperation instruction information, a service processing apparatus is requested for executing a service whose turn has come to execute the service.

14. The cooperative processing method according to claim 8, further comprising:
suspending the cooperative process if a service processing apparatus has become incapable of executing the service whose turn in order of the plural services has come;
searching for a substitute service processing apparatus when a service processing apparatus has become incapable of executing the service whose turn in order of the plural services has come; and

switching-controlling the cooperation instruction information generation, the

cooperative process suspension, and the search on the basis of the first cooperation instruction information.